

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION

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SUBJECT: SOUTH VIETNAM--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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Fighting has increased sharply in several parts of the country following yesterday's capture by North Vietnamese forces of the Dak Pek Ranger Camp and city in northwestern Kontum Province. The Communist move against Dak Pek involved the use of tanks and heavy artillery. The whereabouts of the Camp's 650-man garrison is still unknown. As a result, the government reportedly is holding off any counterattacks in this area.

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[redacted] fighting has also picked up in several other provinces in Military Region 2.

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The CIA Station in Saigon reports that combat has increased in Quang Ngai and Quang Tin provinces in MR-1.

South Vietnamese commanders at Bien Hoa in MR-3 believe that stepped up fighting in Binh Duong Province is the start of the enemy's limited offensive in that region against outlying government military bases and outposts. So far, the bulk of the action has been directed against government positions near Route 13 and along the Saigon River corridor. Some of the fighting appears heavy and tanks reportedly have been observed in at least one of the attacks. Government commanders report that units from all three of the Communists' main force divisions in the region--the 5th, 7th and 9th--have been involved, suggesting to them that the North Vietnamese are planning to wage a fairly intensive local campaign.